

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A programmed computer system for creating and maintaining one or more backup copies of electronic data, comprising:

means to determine whether a mirror copy exists of particular source electronic data, including operating system software, files, directories, and/or physical storage volumes;

means to create a mirror copy of said particular electronic data, if such a mirror copy does not already exist, on a volume and/or storage device other than the volume and/or storage device on which the said particular source electronic data is stored;

means to duplicate all file operations directed to said particular source electronic data on the mirror copy of the electronic data.

2. (Withdrawn) The programmed computer system for creating and maintaining one or more backup copies of electronic data of claim 1 further comprising:

means to copy said mirrored copy after duplicate file operations have been performed as a date-stamped, time-stamped version;

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

means to maintain multiple versions of said mirror copies;

means to provide a computer user with an opportunity to select one of said versions for restoration as primary version of said electronic data;

means for communicating the data storage location of said selected version of electronic data to a computer operating system;

means for translating the data storage location of said selected version of electronic data to one or more application software programs so that said application software programs do not detect any change in the location of said electronic data;

means for said application software programs to request said operating system to access said selected version of electronic data as if said electronic data is located at the source storage location;

means for redirecting said operating system from said source electronic data storage location to said selected version storage location in order to provide said operating system with access to said electronic data at said selected version storage location.

3. (Withdrawn) The programmed computer system for creating and maintaining one or more backup copies of electronic data of claim 1 wherein said means to duplicate all file operations is performed every time the operating system attempts to perform a file operation on said particular source electronic data.

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

4. (Withdrawn) A programmed computer system for creating and maintaining a single virtual logical volume of electronic data space with electronic data storage space located on a plurality of physical storage volumes, comprising:

means for identifying the physical location of available free electronic data storage space on a plurality of physical storage volumes;

means for communicating said available free electronic data storage space locations to a computer operating system;

means for said operating system to access said available free electronic data storage space physically located on a plurality of storage volumes as if the space appeared on a single volume.

5. (Withdrawn) A programmed computer system for creating and maintaining a single virtual logical file of electronic data from electronic data located on a plurality of physical storage volumes, comprising:

means for identifying the physical storage locations of a particular logical file of electronic data stored on a plurality of physical storage volumes;

means for communicating said electronic data storage locations to a computer operating system;

means for said operating system to access said electronic data physically located on a plurality of storage volumes as if the data appeared on a single volume.

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

6. (Withdrawn) A method for creating and maintaining one or more backup copies of electronic data, comprising the steps:

determining whether a mirror copy exists of particular source electronic data, including operating system software, files, directories, and/or physical storage volumes;

creating a mirror copy of said particular electronic data, if such a mirror copy does not already exist, on a volume and/or storage device other than the volume and/or storage device on which the said particular source electronic data is stored;

duplicating all file operations directed to said particular source electronic data on the mirror copy of the electronic data.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for creating and maintaining a single virtual logical volume of electronic data space with electronic data storage space located on a plurality of physical storage volumes, comprising the steps:

identifying the physical location of available free electronic data storage space on a plurality of physical storage volumes;

communicating said available free electronic data storage space locations to a computer operating system;

accessing said available free electronic data storage space physically located on a plurality of storage volumes by said operating system as if the space appeared on a single volume.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for creating and maintaining a single virtual logical file of electronic data from electronic

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

data located on a plurality of physical storage volumes, comprising the steps:

identifying the physical storage locations of a particular logical file of electronic data stored on a plurality of physical storage volumes;

communicating said electronic data storage locations to a computer operating system;

accessing said electronic data physically located on a plurality of storage volumes by said operating system as if the data appeared on a single volume.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for backing up data stored in files as the data is updated, the method comprising:

updating one of the files;

temporarily storing a copy of the updated file (mirroring);

comparing the copy of the updated file with the file prior to updating;

storing the differences in the copy of the updated file (versioning); and

repeating the foregoing steps each time one of the files is updated.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising restoring one of the files to a previous condition by:

temporarily storing a copy of the current version of the file being restored;

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

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applying the stored differences to the stored copy of the current version to produce a copy of an earlier version of the file being restored, and

repeating the two recited steps until a desired version of the file is produced.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, in which the temporarily stored copy is stored until the the next time one of the files is updated.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, in which the temporarily stored copy is stored until the the next time one of the files is updated.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising restoring one of the files to a previous condition by:

applying the stored differences to the updated file to produce a copy of a later version of the file being restored; and

repeating the recited step until a desired version of the file is produced.

14. (New) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising:
creating and maintaining a single virtual logical file of the backed up data from data files physically located on a plurality of storage volumes, the method comprising:

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

C1. identifying the physical storage locations of particular files of backup data stored on the plurality of physical storage volumes;

communicating said storage locations to a computer operating system;

accessing said backup data physically located on a plurality of storage volumes by said operating system as if the backup data appeared on a single volume.

15. (New) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising:
determining whether a mirror copy exists of particular source electronic data, including operating system software, files, directories, and/or physical storage volumes;

creating a mirror copy of said particular electronic data, if such a mirror copy does not already exist, on a volume and/or storage device other than the volume and/or storage device on which the said particular source electronic data is stored;

duplicating all file operations directed to said particular source electronic data on the mirror copy of the electronic data.

16. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
copying said mirror copy after duplicating file operations have been performed as a date-stamped, time-stamped version;
maintaining multiple versions of said mirror copies;
selecting one of said versions for restoration as primary version of said electronic data;

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

C1 communicating the data storage location of said selected version of electronic data to a computer operating system;

translating the data storage location of said selected version of electronic data to one or more application software programs so that said application software programs do not detect any change in the location of said electronic data;

modifying said application software programs to request said operating system to access said selected version of electronic data as if said electronic data is located at the source storage location;

redirecting said operating system from said source electronic data storage location to said selected version storage location in order to provide said operating system with access to said electronic data at said selected version storage location.

17. (New) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising: communicating available free electronic data storage space locations to a computer operating system; and

controlling said operating system to access said available free electronic data storage space physically located on a plurality of storage volumes as if the space appeared on a single volume.

18. (New) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising: identifying the physical storage locations of a particular logical file of electronic data stored on a plurality of physical storage volumes;

Appln No. 10/027,700

Amdt date April 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 19, 2004

C! communicating said data storage locations to a computer operating system; and

controlling said operating system to access said electronic data physically located on a plurality of storage volumes as if the data appeared on a single volume.

19. (New) The method of claim 9, additionally comprising:
determining whether a mirror copy exists of particular source electronic data, including operating system software, files, directories, and/or physical storage volumes;

creating a mirror copy of said particular electronic data, if such a mirror copy does not already exist, on a volume and/or storage device other than the volume and/or storage device on which the said particular source electronic data is stored;

duplicating all file operations directed to said particular source electronic data on the mirror copy of the electronic data.